

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

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USIA FOR ILA/IOP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV EINV, EC

SUBJECT: ADA MEDIA REACTION

1. EL EXPRESO OF GUAYAQUIL, WHICH CARRIED ORIGINAL STORY OF ECUADOREAN CHARGES REPORT OF U.S. "INTERVENTION" IN ADA CASE, CARRIED AN EDITORIAL PAGE COLUMN NOV. 7 BY IGANACIO ROMERO HEADLINED, "PROBLEMS OF THE INVESTIGATION," WHICH CRITICIZED U.S. AND ADA OFFICIALS AND DENIED THAT THE SOURCES OF THE STORY WAS ANY ECUADOREAN OFFICIAL.

2. BLOCK QUOTES FOLLOW.

"IF YOUR ADHERENCE TO TECHNICAL PRECISION WERE NOT SO IMPORTANT, PERHAPS EXPRESO WOULD USE ITS RIGHT TO BOAST ABOUT THE UNDOUBTED JOURNALISTIC "SCOOP" ("HIT") WHICH OUR ACCUSATION OF THE ADA-KISSINGER RELATION HAS CAUSED.

3. SCORN AND IGNORANCE

"GUAYAQUIL, 12:30 P.M. IN THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES THEY STILL HAVE "NOT HAD TIME" TO READ THE LOCAL PRESS AND THE QUESTIONS OF THE NEWSPAPER INVESTIGATORS CATCH BOTH THE CONSUL AND THE USIS DIRECTOR BY SURPRISE.

"THE IGNORANCE, WHICH CAN ONLY BE QUALIFIED AS NEGLIGENCE, DENOTES A DEGREE OF SCORN FOR THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THEY ARE ASSIGNED, WHICH PERHAPS IS SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TRUE CONTENT

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OF PHRASES SUCH AS 'GOOD NEIGHBOR,' 'ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS,'

OR OTHERS."

4. ROMERO SAID PERSONS ASKED WHERE THE INFORMATION CAME FROM, BUT THAT THE SOURCE WAS KEPT SECRET. APPARENTLY, HE SAID, SOME FEARED THE CREATION OF SOME THING LIKE "AN ECUADOREAN 'PLUMBERS GROUP' OF THE NIXON-WATERGATE TYPE, IN AN ATTEMPT TO BLOCK THE APPARENT 'BREACHES OF COMMUNICATION.'"

5. "THE REAL QUESTION THAT SHOULD BE ASKED IS ANOTHER: WHY DID OFFICIALS NOT MAKE PUBLIC THE INTERVENTION, A PHENOMENON WHICH AFFECTED EACH AND EVERY ECUADOREAN? A PEOPLE HAS THE RIGHT TO KNOW THE ELEMENTS THAT FORGE ITS DESTINY."

6. "EVEN WITHOUT BEING OBLIGATED TO REVEAL OUR SOURCES, THIS WE CAN SAY TO QUIET FEARS THAT COULD DEVELOP: EXPRESO DID NOT RECEIVE THE INFORMATION FROM ANY PUBLIC OFFICIAL OF ANY AGENCY."

7. "IF SOME OFFICIAL RETALIATION IS INTENDED BECAUSE OF THE INFORMATION, THEY WILL HAVE TO LOOK FOR ANOTHER EXCUSE."

8. TERROR AND THE GUILTY CONSCIENCE

"THE FRENCH CALL 'MAUVAISE CONSCIENCE' SOMETHING THAT IN SPANISH WE WOULD TRANSLATE BETWEEN 'REMORSE' AND 'SENSE OF GUILT.'"

THE LOCAL MANAGER OF ADA SEEMS TO SUFFER FROM A SEVERE CASE OF "MAUVAISE CONSCIENCE". WHEN THE EXPRESO INVESTIGATOR ARRIVED THE MANAGER BEGAN BY THREATENING THE REPORT AND, FINALLY, BY TRYING TO STOP HIM PHYSICALLY.

"HE WAS LUCKY THAT HIS OWN EMPLOYEES HELD HIM BACK, BECAUSE OUR OUR CORRESPONDENT, APART FROM BEING A FINE AND CULTURED MAN, HAS A BLACK BELT IN KARATE."

9. EXTRA, SMALL-CIRCULATION EVENING TABLOID NOVEMBER 7, CARRIED EDITORIAL PAGE CARTOON SHOWING HAIRY HAND REACHING OUT FOR THREE BARRELS OF GAS WITH PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA FENDING IT OFF. CAPTION READ: "FROM WHERE? CIA? OR FROM WHOSE COMPANY IS THE HAND?"

10. EL COMERCIO, ECUADOR'S LARGEST PAPER, NOVEMBER 8 CARRIED UNCLASSIFIED

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MILDER EDITORIAL PAGE CARTOON SHOWING BOY AND FATHER ON THE DOCK VIEWING SHIP CARRYING LIQUID GAS. CAPTION WAS BOY'S QUESTION TO FATHER: "DADDY, DOES THAT GAS COME FROM THE GULF?". BREWSTER

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